BIG BUNSBY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

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Date:

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BIG BUNSBY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Big Bunsby Marine Park is to provide a remote marine recreation experience in the Kyuoquot Sound area off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Big Bunsby Marine Park contains some of the best all-weather anchorages in Checleset Bay and recreation opportunities include sea kayaking, wilderness camping, fishing, swimming, and nature observation. As yet, there are no facilities and access is by boat only.

The park was added to the protected areas system to focus recreation away from the adjacent Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve and its extensive area of marine shoreline, reefs, islets, and kelp beds that provide habitat for British Columbia's recovering sea otter population.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to protect First Nation cultural values. The park protects significant First Nations values that offer glimpses to the past and demonstrate their tie to the land.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of natural and cultural values	➢ Conduct an ecological inventory including marine components. ➢ Conduct a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations to research potential archaeological sites.
Impact of recreational development on natural and cultural values	➢ Formalize camping area and facilities to concentrate impacts to one area. ➢ Provide visitors with information on no trace camping.
Lack of potable water for campers	➢ Provide information to potential visitors on water limitations before they leave. Ensure that information is on the website.
Impact of surrounding land uses on natural values	➢ Liaison with DFO to monitor impact of commercial invertebrate harvesting. ➢ Work with Ministry of Forests to monitor for the illegal activity of log salvaging.
Strained First Nations relations	➢ Develop good working relationships with First Nations to develop an understanding and appreciation of protected area status and park values.

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone - covers the entire park (658 hectares). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Minimal contribution (0.13%) to the overall representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection, which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4%. Minimal contribution (0.43%) to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection, which has only 5.4% protected provincially.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Minimal contribution (0.3%) to the representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented in the protected areas system at 19.3%.
Special Features	☒	Presence of sea otters and killer whales, 3 bald eagles nests
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Provincially red-listed and nationally threatened sea otter. COSEWIC-listed threatened northern abalone.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Sea otters

Recreation

Representation backcountry	☒	Remote marine experience
destination	☒	Part of the Kyuquot Sound experience, excellent all-weather anchorages for boaters
travel corridor	☒	Marine and kayak routes are along either side of the park, potential to develop campsite and further establish area as a marine corridor
local recreation	☐	Low level of use
Special Opportunities	☒	Outstanding nature observation opportunities, potential to develop ecotourism
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Cultural theme of Kyuquot Sound, sea otters, importance of Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values not well known
Special Feature	☒	Archaeological sites, high potential for undiscovered archaeological sites such as fish traps

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☒	Important Bird Area
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Completes the protection of Checleset Bay, and complements the recreation opportunities provided by Brooks Peninsula Park as well as focuses recreation away from Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Natural and cultural values are vulnerable to recreation pressures, sea otters are vulnerable to oil spills and industrial activity nearby (commercial harvesting and log salvage)
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Marine Protected Areas Strategy; created as a result of recommendations in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Goal 2 process.

Area: 658 hectares (269 ha upland; 389 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: April 30, 1996

Zoning Map - Big Bunsby Marine Park

Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary